

In re Patent Application of:
MARIAUD ET AL.
Serial No. 09/989,317
Filing Date: NOVEMBER 20, 2001

In the Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a master apparatus; and
a slave apparatus for communicating with said master
apparatus and communicating via a universal serial bus (USB)
protocol, said slave apparatus comprising
a sending/receiving circuit for sending and
receiving binary information to and from said master
apparatus and supplying status signals based thereon,
a plurality of state latches and control circuitry
cooperating therewith for receiving the status signals
from said sending/receiving circuit and supplying state
signals of said sending/receiving circuit based
thereon,
a microprocessor for processing applications of
said slave apparatus and also for processing the binary
information received by said sending/receiving circuit,
and
an interruption state latch and a control circuit
cooperating therewith for supplying an interruption
signal to said microprocessor once the start of a new
message has been acknowledged and recorded by said
sending/receiving circuit when the microprocessor is
unavailable.

IN RE Patent Application of:
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Serial No. 09/989,317
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6. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 5 wherein said control circuit for controlling said interruption state latch comprises at least one logic circuit for receiving the status signals from said sending/receiving circuit and setting said interruption state latch to a predetermined logic level to indicate a microprocessor interruption request.

7. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 5 wherein said control circuitry for controlling said state latches prevents the binary information from said sending/receiving circuit from being written into said plurality of state latches during receipt of the start of the new message and during the presence of the interruption signal.

8. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 5 wherein said master apparatus comprises a central processing unit.

9. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 5 wherein said slave apparatus comprises a computer peripheral device.

10. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 5 further comprising a cable connecting said master apparatus and said slave apparatus.

11. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a master apparatus; and

In re Patent Application of:
MARIAUD ET AL.
Serial No. 09/989,317
Filing Date: NOVEMBER 20, 2001

a slave apparatus for communicating with said master apparatus and comprising

a sending/receiving circuit for sending and receiving binary information to and from said master apparatus and supplying status signals based thereon,

a plurality of state latches and control circuitry cooperating therewith for receiving the status signals from said sending/receiving circuit and supplying state signals of said sending/receiving circuit based thereon,

a microprocessor for processing applications of said slave apparatus and also for processing the binary information received by said sending/receiving circuit, and

an interruption state latch for supplying an interruption signal to said microprocessor once the start of a new message has been acknowledged and recorded by said sending/receiving circuit when said microprocessor is unavailable,

said control circuitry for controlling said state latches preventing the binary information from said sending/receiving circuit from being written into said plurality of state latches during receipt of the start of the new message and during the presence of the interruption signal.

12. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim

In re Patent Application of:
MARIAUD ET AL.
Serial No. 09/989,317
Filing Date: NOVEMBER 20, 2001

11 wherein said master apparatus and said slave apparatus communicate via a universal serial bus (USB) protocol.

13. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 11 further comprising at least one logic circuit for receiving the status signals from said sending/receiving circuit and setting said interruption state latch to a predetermined logic level to indicate a microprocessor interruption request.

14. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 11 wherein said master apparatus comprises a central processing unit.

15. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 11 wherein said slave apparatus comprises a computer peripheral.

16. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 11 further comprising a cable connecting said master apparatus and said slave apparatus.

17. (Currently amended) A slave apparatus for communicating with a master apparatus via a universal serial bus (USB) protocol, said slave apparatus comprising:

a sending/receiving circuit for sending and receiving binary information to and from the master apparatus and supplying status signals based thereon;

a plurality of state latches and control circuitry cooperating therewith for receiving the status signals from said

In re Patent Application of:
MARIAUD ET AL.
Serial No. 09/989,317
Filing Date: NOVEMBER 20, 2001

sending/receiving circuit and supplying state signals of said sending/receiving circuit based thereon;

a microprocessor for processing applications of the slave apparatus and also for processing the binary information received by said sending/receiving circuit; and

an interruption state latch and a control circuit cooperating therewith for supplying an interruption signal to said microprocessor once the start of a new message has been acknowledged and recorded by said sending/receiving circuit when said microprocessor is unavailable.

18. (Previously presented) The slave apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said control circuit for controlling said interruption state latch comprises at least one logic circuit for receiving the status signals from said sending/receiving circuit and setting said interruption state latch to a predetermined logic level to indicate a microprocessor interruption request.

19. (Previously presented) The slave apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said control circuitry for controlling said state latches prevents the binary information from said microprocessor from being written into said plurality of state latches during receipt of the start of the new message and during the presence of the interruption signal.

20. (Currently amended) A method of processing interruptions in a slave apparatus for communicating with a

In re Patent Application of:
MARIAUD ET AL.
Serial No. 09/989,317
Filing Date: NOVEMBER 20, 2001

master apparatus via a universal serial bus (USB) protocol, the method comprising:

 sending and receiving binary information to and from the master apparatus via a sending/receiving circuit and supplying status signals based thereon;

 generating state signals of the sending/receiving circuit based upon the status signals;

 processing applications of the slave apparatus and also processing the binary information received by the sending/receiving circuit; and

 supplying an interruption signal to a microprocessor of the slave apparatus once the start of a new message has been acknowledged and recorded by the sending/receiving circuit when the microprocessor is unavailable.

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20 wherein supplying the interruption signal comprises setting an interruption state latch to a predetermined logic level based upon the status signals to indicate a microprocessor interruption request.

22. (Currently amended) A method of processing interruptions in a slave apparatus for communicating with a master apparatus via a universal serial bus (USB) protocol, the method comprising:

 generating a state signal indicating the end of a message;

 detecting a start of a new message from the master

In re Patent Application of:
MARIAUD ET AL.
Serial No. 09/989,317
Filing Date: NOVEMBER 20, 2001

apparatus and producing a start of message state signal;
recording data from the start of the new message;
acknowledging receipt of the start of the new message;
generating a signal indicating completion of
recordation of the data from the start of the new message; and
generating an interruption signal for a microprocessor
of the slave apparatus in the presence of the state signal
indicating the end of the message, the start of message state
signal, and the signal indicating completion of recordation of
the data from the start of the new message when the
microprocessor is unavailable.